



BONHOMME RICHARD'S ALMANAC

Vol. 2, No. 53

April 12, 2000

"I have not yet begun to fight!"



DIFFERENT KIND OF PAINTING IN FOC'SLE

Story and Photo by JO3 Laura Wiggins

There's a painting in the USS BONHOMME RICHARD (LHD 6) Forecastle. It is a painting of the original USS BONHOMME RICHARD commanded by Captain John Paul Jones.

Boatswain's Mate Third Class David Jason Longoria took some paint and a paintbrush up to the foc'sle and went to work. The twenty-five-year-old from San Antonio, Texas decided it was time to bring a part of our ship's history to life right in his own work space.

Longoria started off drawing at Olmos Elementary and Robert E. Lee High School. He would draw different kinds of blueprints, graphic art, airbrush drawings, and paintings of anything, including his friends' cars. He decided to attend Texas A&M and received a Bachelors in Business Administration, but he wanted more knowledge. So he joined the Navy in Sept. of 1997. Two years and seven months later, he is the celebrity artist in Deck department.

When asked why he decided to paint the picture, he commented, "I enjoy drawing and it was a good picture of the ship; so much history." It only took three days for him to complete the painting and he intends to add CVA 31 and LHD 6 to his collection on the Foc'sle.

Longoria vows, "When I return

to the civilian world, I plan on working for the Sony Corporation back in my hometown, but I will never stop drawing. I have always loved to see the great things that come from pencils and paintbrushes."

History makes things what they are today. Longoria exemplified that when he brought to life the first BONHOMME RICHARD in a painting on today BONHOMME RICHARD's foc'sle.



Boatswain's Mate Third Class David Longoria poses with his painting of the original BONHOMME RICHARD, along with a plaque of the original Deck Department plankowners.

NATIONAL NEWS

GAS PRICES FALLING ALREADY

By CNN

Soaring gas prices that sparked protests from drivers and politicians may be on the way down, industry experts say.

The price of gasoline dropped more than two cents a gallon in the last two weeks, according to a new price survey released Sunday.

Trilby Lundberg, publisher of the bi-weekly Lundberg survey, said she expected gas prices to fall further, though not necessarily into summer, when Americans tend to drive more.

"I expect prices to continue to fall, but exactly when and how much is not knowable, not predictable," she told CNN.

Prices at self-service stations on Friday averaged \$1.52 for regular unleaded gasoline, \$1.62 for mid-grade and \$1.70 for premium.

Full-service prices were \$1.83 for regular, \$1.92 for mid-grade and just under \$2 for premium.

Lundberg, who surveys more than 10,000 gas stations, said the price

drop reflects the recent decision by the members of the oil cartel, OPEC, to increase oil production.

"The lower purchase prices for crude oil are working their way through the refining and marketing system," Lundberg said. "Although the two markets are not identical, and gas can have its own dynamic at any time, it will impact the price at the pump."

Prices dropped the most in the Midwest, she said. Drivers in Kansas City, Missouri, paid the least for a gallon of gas, about \$1.30.

STOCK MARKET

| | | | |
|---------|-----------|------|--------|
| DOW | 11,186.56 | UP | 75.08 |
| NASDAQ | 4,188.20 | DOWN | 258.25 |
| S&P 500 | 1,503.38 | DOWN | 12.97 |
| NYSE | 659.71 | UP | 0.28 |

WEDNESDAY'S STIE TV SCHEDULE

CHANNEL 2

1030 THAT 70'S SHOW

1100 STAR TREK:

THE FINAL FRONTIER

1630 ER

1730 JEOPARDY

1800 SOUL TRAIN

1900 WALKER, TEXAS RANGER

2000 AMERICAN PIE

2200 BLACK SCORPION

CHANNEL 6

1030 JUST SHOOT ME

1100 FERRIS BUELLER'S DAY OFF

1630 MR. NICE GUY

1800 STAR WARS: SPECIAL EDITION

2000 MYSTERY ALASKA

2200 PLATOON

TV SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE
DUE TO OPERATIONAL COMMITMENTS

BONHOMME RICHARD'S ALMANAC

Capt. Douglas W. Keith, Commanding Officer

Lt. Cmdr. Laurie Rye, Public Affairs Officer

JOC(SW/AW) Stephen K. Robinson, Asst. Public Affairs Officer

JO1(SW) Robert W. Garnand, Editor

JO3 Laura C. Wiggins, Staff Writer

Lt1 Jimmie Claspell, Print Shop

This newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the military services stationed at sea and their families. Its contents do not necessarily reflect the official views of the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the U.S. Navy and do not imply endorsement thereof.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

SCIENTIST DISPUTES DNA CLAIM

By Associated Press

The chief scientist of an international organization trying to map the human genetic code has disputed a private company's claim to have already reached that target.

Dr. Francis Collins of the publicly funded Human Genome Project claims Celera Genomics, which last week announced it had finished the decoding phase of one person's genetic code, did not complete even half of its planned effort.

Craig Venter, Celera's chief scientist, said last week that the U.S. company will now begin assembling the genetic fragments into their proper order. The company claimed to have beaten the Human Genome Project, an international, nonprofit consortium of scientists, in the race to decode the human genome.

But Collins said Celera had planned to check the sequencing data 10 times, but instead only did so three times before starting on other ventures.

"There were a couple of unfortunate quotes that implied that they had sequenced the whole human genome but that's just not true," Collins said of Celera's claim.

"What we all need to recognize is that for the sequencing for the human genome, there is not going to be a finish line for any group, for at least the next couple of years."

Venter was not available for comment.

About 1,000 scientists from 50 countries are to meet this week at a conference in Vancouver to discuss the latest findings in the decade-old, multibillion-dollar Human Genome Project.

CONGRESS LAUDS AMERICAN GI

By Associated Press

The House unanimously declared the American GI the "person of the century," saying American soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines had led the struggle for freedom and democracy from World War I to the NATO efforts in Kosovo.

"It's more than fitting that the Congress of the United States recognize our nation's men and women in uniform for their contributions," said Rep. Ike Skelton of Missouri, top Democrat on the Armed Service Committee. "The American GI changed the course of world history in helping defeat fascism and communism."



Defense Secretary William Cohen addresses Marines and Sailors of the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) participating in Exercise Eager Mace April 9 at Udari Range, Kuwait. While there, the secretary promoted and re-enlisted several Marines in attendance.

The 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) is deployed to the Arabian Gulf aboard the ships of the USS BONHOMME RICHARD Amphibious Ready Group as part of a routine six-month deployment. (Photo by Gunnery Sgt. Glenn Holloway.)

SPORTS

GRIFFEY YOUNGEST TO REACH 400

By Associated Press

Ken Griffey Jr. became the youngest player to hit 400 major league home runs, connecting Monday in the fourth inning of Cincinnati's game against Colorado at Coors Field.

Griffey sent a 2-0 pitch from Rolando Arrojo into the left-field seats, a 378-foot blow. It was his second homer of the season and second in as many days.

He was cheered by the Coors Field crowd and hugged by teammates in the dugout. At 30 years, 141 days, Griffey beat the previous mark, set by Jimmie Foxx, who was 30 years, 248 days old.

Griffey's historic homer came on the 50th birthday of his father, Ken Griffey Sr. It was the fourth time he has homered on his father's birthday.

NHL SCORES:

| | | | |
|--------------|---|------------|---|
| BUFFALO | 1 | WASHINGTON | 1 |
| PHILADELPHIA | 4 | NY RANGERS | 1 |
| NY ISLANDERS | 3 | FLORIDA | 2 |
| CAROLINA | 2 | ATLANTA | 1 |
| LOS ANGELES | 4 | ANAHEIM | 3 |
| CHICAGO | 3 | ST. LOUIS | 1 |
| COLORADO | 3 | DETROIT | 2 |
| DALLAS | 2 | PHOENIX | 2 |
| BOSTON | 3 | PITTSBURGH | 1 |
| OTTAWA | 5 | TAMPA BAY | 2 |
| VANCOUVER | 5 | SAN JOSE | 2 |

CHMURA NOT FORMALLY CHARGED

By Associated Press

Mark Chmura was arrested after his 17-year-old baby sitter accused him of sexually assaulting her in a bathroom during a party at which they played a drinking game together.

Robert Gessert, a friend of the Green Bay Packers tight end, was also arrested. An 18-year-old woman accused him of sexually assaulting her in a hot tub at Gessert's home at the party after a prom, according to court records.

NBA SCORES:

| | | | |
|--------------|-----|------------|-----|
| BOSTON | 99 | ATLANTA | 94 |
| PHILADELPHIA | 96 | MIAMI | 80 |
| TORONTO | 112 | CLEVELAND | 103 |
| CHARLOTTE | 107 | WASHINGTON | 105 |
| MILWAUKEE | 104 | ORLANDO | 87 |
| MINNESOTA | 102 | DETROIT | 100 |
| NEW YORK | 83 | INDIANA | 81 |
| LA LAKERS | 106 | SEATTLE | 103 |
| PORTLAND | 90 | UTAH | 86 |

BASEBALL SCORES:

| | | | |
|--------------|---|------------|---|
| KANSAS CITY | 6 | MINNESOTA | 5 |
| ANAHEIM | 6 | TORONTO | 0 |
| CLEVELAND | 9 | OAKLAND | 4 |
| MILWAUKEE | 4 | FLORIDA | 3 |
| CHIC. CUBS | 4 | ATLANTA | 3 |
| COLORADO | 7 | CINNCINATI | 5 |
| ARIZONA | 8 | SAN DIEGO | 4 |
| PHILADELPHIA | 9 | NY METS | 7 |
| ST. LOUIS | 8 | HOUSTON | 7 |



Boatswain's Mate Second Class James McDonald stands ready to throw LCAC 90 a line during an LCAC emergency recovery drill conducted yesterday. (Photo by JO3 Laura C. Wiggins.)

IDENTITY THEFT AND CREDIT CARD FRAUD

Identity theft and credit card fraud are the fastest growing white-collar crimes in the United States.

Two major contributing factors are the rise in on-line credit applications over the Internet and the tremendous proliferation of credit cards. Members of the Navy and Marine Corps are more susceptible than the general public.

Identity theft involves someone using your identifying information to acquire goods or services in your name through the use of credit or debit cards, checks or other documents.

Identity theft generally starts when a criminal obtains your name and Social Security Number. Using this information and a false address, he will obtain credit cards and other identification, such as a driver's license. At this point, your identity has been stolen.

Often, victims know nothing of the crime until they are contacted by debt collection agencies regarding unpaid credit card bills, bad car loans, etc. The long-term implications for you and your credit rating are very serious. Victims may spend months or years trying to clean up their credit records, and the process can be very stressful.

Several factors, such as frequent moves, physical separation and reliance on remote-access to financial services, make military members more vulnerable to identity theft. Take steps to prevent and detect identity theft.

Steps to preventing identity theft: Write or call your Department of Motor Vehicles and ask to have your personal information protected from unauthorized disclosure; Do not use your mother's maiden name as a password on your credit cards; Thoroughly review all bank, credit card and phone statements for unusual activity; Remove your Social Security Number from checks, driver's license and other forms of identification, if possible; Close all unused credit/bank accounts, destroy old credit cards and shred unused credit card offers; Order your credit report once a year and look for anomalies; Do not leave outgoing credit card payments in your mailbox; Do not discuss financial matters on wireless or cellular phones; Do not discuss financial matters with anyone who calls you on the phone; Always use secure sites for Internet purchases; Do not carry your Social Security card in your wallet; File or shred all credit card, bank and other financial statements.

The first line of defense is awareness. To detect identity theft, watch out for:

Unusual purchases on your credit cards; Bank statements that don't agree with personal records; Unexplained changes in your bank access code; Missing credit card bills or other mail; Unusual calls regarding your personal or financial information; Unexplained charges on phone or other consumer accounts.

If you suspect that someone is illegally using your identity or making charges in your name, immediately call the organization handling the account and follow up with a letter. In addition, contact the police and your local office of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS). The NCIS Computer Crime hotline is 1-800-287-9917.